

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A facsimile communication system is provided which is capable of sending out picture data from a gateway device on a receiver side to a facsimile device on the receiver side even in the development of delays in communications caused by fluctuations in a communication network and of avoiding a forced breakdown of the facsimile communication occurring based on a judgement by the facsimile communication system that a communication failure has occurred due to the delays in communications.

In the facsimile communication system, the gateway device on the receiver side, after receiving a digital instruction (DCS) signal from the gateway device on a sender side, without waiting for the receipt of a receiving preparation confirmation (CFR) signal to be fed from a facsimile device on the receiver side, returns, for itself, the CFR signal to the gateway device on the sender side and then starts to receive picture data from the gateway device on the receiver side. The gateway device on the receiver side starts to send the picture data to the facsimile device on the receiver side when accumulated amounts of received picture data exceeds amounts of data required to prevent communication failures.